(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Representations have been received by CPWD regarding provision of a scooter garage in quarters mentioned at (b) above.

(e) CPWD has reported that request has not been agreed to in view of existing guidelines for not providing scooter garages in all type II & double storeyed type III quarters. Ground floor type III quarters in more than two storeyed constructions are not provided scooter garage considering that they can park their scooter in their quarters.

Non-Payment of PF Dues

2333. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.P. Export Corporation Limited Kanpur has not released accumulated Provident Fund of its employees who retired or left the service in the year 1993 and 1994;

(b) whether the Government have taken any penal action against the corporation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Report of United Nations Development Programme

2334. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:
SHRI N. DENNIS:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Human Development Report 1997, released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has warned the Indian Government that its focus on reducing fiscal deficit is forcing major cuts in public spending and hampering poverty alleviation efforts;

(b) whether the report has also highlighted the Government's failure to provide free and compulsory education, abolishing of child labour, to provide adequate funds for social services and economic security of the marginalised communities;

(c) whether the Industrial growth has neglected the agriculture and the rural population have become further poor;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government on the points raised in the report;

(e) whether some of the States like Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab have managed to reduce poverty by 50% whereas 50% of India rural poor live in Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to provide sufficient funds for removing poverty from India and also to reduce fiscal deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Human Development Report, 1997 states ".... The focus on reducing fiscal deficits in forcing major cuts in public spending and the emphasis on state minimalism is leading to abdication of state responsibilities in key areas affecting the lives of the poor people". This includes free and compulsory elementary education, abolition of child labour, adequate provision for social services and economic security of marginalised communities.

(c) The Report states that during the period 1951 to mid-seventies, the proportion of rural population living below the poverty line fluctuated. From mid-seventies till the end of eighties, there were significant and steady improvement in incidence of both rural and urban poverty. India did not see a consistent drop in poverty in the first period because of a greater emphasis on total output than on distribution. In the urban areas the focus was on heavy industry and public enterprises rather than on the micro enterprises that employ most of the poor people.

(d) to (f) As per the Planning Commission estimates, there is a substantial decline in the proportion of poor for most of the states for the period 1973-94. The proportion of poor in Andhra Pradesh and Punjab has declined by more than 50 per cent and that of Haryana by about 30 per cent. For the year 1993-94, nearly 47 per cent of India's rural poor live in Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

Among the objectives identified for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), the Approach Paper lists the following:

(i) Priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. For the first time, agricultural growth is targeted at 4.5 per cent per annum for the Plan period.

(ii) Accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices. The stability and the sustainability of the growth process require determined efforts to cut down the revenue deficits of both the Central and State Governments and to achieve a degree of fiscal balance;

(iii) Ensuring food and nutritional security for all, particularly the vulnerable sections of society;

(iv) Providing the basic minimum services of safe drinking water, primary health care facilities, universal primary education, shelter and connectivity to all in a time bound manner;

(v) Empowerment of women and socially disadvantaged groups such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes and Minorities as agents of socio-economic change and development.

[Translation]

Development of Bihar

2335. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting with the Hon'ble Members of Parliament from Bihar was held on March 12, 1997 to discuss the issues relating to the development of State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the performance by the Bihar Government is very low in regard to the schemes sponsored by the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the meeting, important developmental issues like irrigation infrastructure development, giving thrust to power projects, increasing employment opportunities and education sector development were discussed.

(c) and (d) Centrally Sponsored Schemes are formulated by the Central Ministries/Departments in consultation with the State Government and are implemented by the State Governments. The Planning Commission does not have any direct role in their implementation.

[English]

Working OF T.I.F.R.

2336. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee of International Researchers was ever appointed to evaluate the working of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research;

(b) if so, the constitution of the Committee; and

(c) the findings and recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), the Premier Scientific Research Institution in the fields of Physics, Mathematics and allied sciences, is an Autonomous Institution supported by the Department of Atomic Energy. TIFR completed fifty years of research activities in 1995-96. As a sequel to the TIFR's Golden Jubilee, its Council of Management decided to invite a group of eminent scientists to review TIFR's achievements and make recommendations on, inter alia, international collaboration with other institutions, scope for greater purposeful interaction with industry in selected areas and the steps needed to enable the Institute to attract creative talent in the light of the increasing specialisation of research.

A committee consisting of the following experts visited and reviewed the working of TIFR during 13-18 January, 1997:-

(i) Prof. Lord Porter, OM, FRS, Nobel Laureate Chairman, Centre for Petromolecular Sciences, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Imperial College, London, UK.

(ii) Prof. D. Mumford, President of the International Mathematical Union, Division of Applied Mathematics, Brown University, Rhode Island, USA.

(iii) Prof. Sir Arnold Wolfendale, FRS, Formerly Astronomer Royal and President of the Royal Astronomical Society, Department of Physics, University of Durham, Science Laboratories, UK.

(iv) Prof. B.V. Sreekantan, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian Institute of Science